AGRICULTUURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECRETARIAT

Sub :**Agricultural Extension Project in Karnataka with the assistance of the World Bank—Implementation of—**

ORDER No.AAH 229 AML 77 ; BANGALORE DATED 22nd-26TH MARCH 1979

PREAMBLE :

The fact that agriculture has been the most predominant activity in India and also in this State needs no reiteration. It is also a fact that the per capita income of the State has been steadily rising. Production of foodgrains has also registered an impressive increase. The total production of foodgrains in 1975–76 was of the order of about 70 lakh tonnes and during the current year it is expected to reach arecor d level of about 75 lakh tonnes as against 35.39 lakh tonnes during 1965–66. Such an overall improvement in the agricultural economy has been due not only to larger extent of land being used for agricultural production but also due to systematic transfer of advanced technology from Scientific Institutions and Research Establishments to the field. Introduction of hybrids and high yielding varieties has contributed to better yields. These dev lopments have been largely due to the existence of a well organised agricultural extension service as part of the Community Development Programme.

The system of having a multipurpose Village Level Worker called as Gramasevak (Agricultural Assistant) was brought into practice as early as 1952. The Gramasevak is expected to be the main instrument to impart knowledge of modern technology in agriculture and allied fields to the farmer so that the latter could make use of all the available resources in the best manner possible. While by and large, such a multi-purpose worker guided by staff from various departments of the Government has functioned staisfactorily and has shown results, because of the fact that he has to handle very large number of subjects, his efforts as far as agricultural extension is concerned get diluted. A majority of farmers have thus been left out without any exposure to modern method of agriculture. To this extent the idea of having a multipurpose worker has led to the dilution of efforts in respect of many fruitful areas where better achievements are possible. Experience has shown that Gramasevak's knowledge remains limited to what he had been taught during his training and to what could be passed on to him by his superiors. There is at present no organised system to keep the gramsevak apprised of fresh knowledge as it accumulates

Linkage between the field level extension service and the Research Institutions has also not been properly organised. As a result, while the Reserach Establishments do not have adequate feed back from the field, the new developments in technology do not also percolate to the field adequately and rapidly. Organisationally also there are certain deficiencies.

Thus, while so far the existing extension system has functioned fairly satisfactorily, the new developments in technology and the need to intensify agriculture in its various aspects has made it necessary to take a second look at the present system and replace it with a more scientific pattern where the gramasevak (Agricultural Assistant) is enabled to function more efficiently and be in contact with a smaller number of agriculturists than at present so that his efforts do not get diluted.

For some time past ,Government of India have been giving serious thought to this aspect and based on a new pattern of extension tried out in West Bengal and some other states suggested by Daniel Benor of the World Bank, they have given a new orientation to agrnicultural exetsion.

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On this basis, a project for introduction of revised agricultural extension system in Karnataka was prepared by the Director of Agriculture in consultation with the Government of India and the World Bank which was considered by the State Government. This project received the approval of the Cabinet in its 17th meeting held on 12th September 1978.

Thereafter negotiations for assistance to this project were held in Washington during September–October 1978 by the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka with the World Bank. The World Bank cleared the project for assistance and also agreed for retro-active financing with effect from 3rd October 1978 as indicated in the World Bank Report No. 2171 a IN dated 30th November 1978.

As an advance action for implementation of the project the following Government orders have been issued.

(1) Government Order No. PD 220 CAM 75, dated 24th September 1977 sanctioning the new extension service in the command area of Karnataka when the scheme was introduced on a pilot basis in 14 command area taluks.

(2) Government Order No. AAH 229 AML 77 dated 15th September 1978, wherein the administrative control of approximately 75 percent of the village level workers, was transferred to the control of the Director of Agriculture for full time extension work.

(3) Government Order No. AAH 229 AML 77, dated 20th November 1978 according sanction for implementation of the centrally sponsored scheme for strenghtening and re-organisation of extension administration as an advance action for the implementation of the World Bank assisted Project.

(4) Government Order No. AAH 229 AML 77, dated 21st December 1978 wherein Government directed that the new Agricultural Extension Project with the assistance of World Bank shall be deemed to have come into effect from 1st October 1978 and the Director of Agriculture was requested to take immediate action for implementation of the Project.

(5) Order No. AAH 229 AML 77, dated 19th February 1979, ordering that the administrative control of the entire strength of 2,600 Gramasevaks in the State shall vest with the Department of Agriculture in supersession of the order dated 15th September 1978.

The Director of Agriculture, has sent proposals to Government vide his letters No. (i) PLN 43 TAG 78, dated 23rd November 1978 and (ii) PLN 43 TAG 78, dated 8th January 1979. The proposals submitted by the Director of Agriculture are in accordance with the World Bank report No. 2171 a IN dated 30th November 1978.

The total cost of the Project is Rs. 20.58 crores for a period of 5 years. The main components included in this Project are as follows :

		(*Rs. in Lakhs*)
1.	Incremental staff	604.21
2.	Vehicles & equipment	186.55
3.	Training costs	193.64
4.	Operating cost	262.05
5.	Monitoring and Evaluation unit. ..	46.35
6.	Civil works	385.62
7.	Physical contingencies and price contingencies	379.69
	Total :	2058.01 or 20.58 Crores

The proposal of the Director of Agriculture, *inter alia*, seeking approval of the Government on the following items were carefully examined by the Government in detail.

(i) Approval of Government to introduce the Project at a cost of 20.58 crores starting from the year 1978–79.

(ii) Sanction for the incremental staff at different levels.

(iii) Transfer of Agricultural Extension Officers and Agricultural Assistant (Gramsevaks) from the control of Block Development Officers to the control of Assistant Director of Agriculture.

(iv) Authorising the Director of Agriculture to pool the staff in different crop schemes and to fix the jurisdiction of the officers at different levels.

(v) Re-designating the Deputy Directors of Agriculture at District level as Principal Agricultural Officers.

(vi) Sanction to incur the expenditure during 1978–79.

(vii) Creation of a separate head of account for the Project.

(viii) Uniform staffing pattern at taluk, district and divisional level.

(ix) Bifurcation of Bangalore and Mysore Divisions to create the additional Divisions with Headquarters at Shimoga and Hassan respectively.

ORDER :

After careful consideration of the above proposals of the Director of Agriculture, the Government are pleased to accord sanction for implementing the Project (appended as Annexure to this Order) for a period of five years beginning from the year 1978–79 at a total cost not exceeding Rs. 20.58 crores (Rupees Twenty crores and fifty eight lakhs) as indicated in the Annexures, specifying the following :

(1) The I phase of the Project is deemed to have commenced with effect from 3rd October 1978 in supersession of the G. O. No. AAH 229 AML 77 dated 21st December 1978. The II phase shall commence from 1st April 1979.

(2) The staff sanctioned in the following two schemes shall get merged in the project as and when the project is extended to the districts concerned.

(i) New Extension Services in the command areas in Karnataka sanctioned in Government Order No. PD 220 CAM 75 dated 24th September 1977.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening and re-organisation of the Agricultural Extension Administration sanctioned in Government Order No. AAH 229 AML 77, dated 20th November 1978.

(3) Sanction is accorded for the creation of incremental staff as indicated in Annexure VIII of the appended project.

(4) The Agricultural Extension Officers now borne in the Community Development Blocks are transferred to the control of the Department of Agriculture.

(5) The Director of Agriculture is authorised to pool the staff borne in the schemes indicated in Annexure–II (except serial No. 17 i.e. New Extension Scheme in command areas which gets merged) and re-deploy them along with the incremental staff sanctioned for this project and fix up the strength of Assistant Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Extension Officers for each taluk not exceeding the numbers for each district as indicated in annexure–III and IV respectively and to fix up the jurisdiction of each of them.

(6) The Central taluks and the cluster of taluks attached to the central taluks shall be as indicated in Annexure–V

(7) New Offices of Assistant Directors of Agriculture at taluk level shall be established as indicated in Annexure–VI (a).

(8) The Assistant Director of Agriculture at taluk level shall be the drawing Officer and he shall draw the pay of Agricultural Extension Officers and Agricultural Assistants including those transferred from Community Development Blocks.

(9) The Deputy Director of Agriculture at district levels shall be re-designated as Principal Agricultural Officer with effect from 1st April 1979.

(10) The Director of Agriculture is authorised to re-deploy the existing posts of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture at district level and those in the schemes listed in annexure–II to fill up the posts of Principal Agricultural Officers and additional Deputy Directors of Agriculture at district level and the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Headquarters) at divisional levels.

(11) The existing Bangalore and Mysore Divisions shall be bifurcated and two new divisional offices each under a Joint Director of Agriculture with headquarters at Shimoga and Hassan shall be established. Shimoga division will consist of Shimoga and Chitradurga Districts Hassan Division shall comprise Hassan, Chickmagalur and Dakshina Kannada Districts. Staff sanctioned in Annexure–VIII includes the staff for these new divisions also.

(12) The staffing pattern at taluk level, district level and divisional level shall be as indicated in Annexure–XV andthe Director of Agriculture is authorised to redeploy the available staff to conform to the pattern indicated therein.

(13) Sanction is also accorded to :—

(*a*) incur expenditure on civil works as indicated in annexure–IX.

(*b*) purchase of vehicles and equipment as indicated in annexure–X.

(*c*) incur training costs as indicated in Annexure–XI.

(*d*) incur operating costs as indicated in Annexure–XII.

(*e*) establish a monitoring and evaluation unit under the Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Department as indicated in Annexure–XIII.

(14) The post of Additional Director of Agriculture created at State level in Annexure–VIII is in lieu of the post created in Government Order No. AAH 25 AML 78 dated 13th June 1978 which stands merged in this project.

(15) Sanction is accorded for creation of a new budget head for the project with effect from 1st April 1979 viz. "305 Agriculture, 1 Direction and Administration, A–Agriculture Department, V–Agricultural Extension Project (World Bank aided scheme)––Plan". However, no expenditure on staff shall be booked under this head of account during 1978–79.

(16) The expenditure on staff borne under schemes listed in Annexure–II which is to be pooled for extension work under the project, shall continue to be debited to the same head of account as at present until further orders.

The Director of Agriculture is directed to take immediate action to implement the project. He is also authorised to incur the expenditure as sanctioned above. If any further specific orders of the Government are required for implementation of the project, the Director of Agriculture may approach the Government with suitable proposals.

This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department *vide*–426/Exp.4/79 dated 3rd March 1979.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka,

N. RAM,
Under Secretary to Government
Agrl & Animal Husbandry Deptt.